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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Mitsuhiro NOMI et al.

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Frank J. Jordan

(Name of Registered Representative)

mature and Date

<u>5/07/01</u>

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a European Search Report dated April 18, 2001, along with Form PTO-1449 and copies of the three cited references listed therein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of the first Official Action. Therefore, there is no charge for filing this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

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